CHAPTER XX

PHILIPPINE CULTURE[1]

FILIPINO ATTAINMENTS

CULTURE—civilization—humanism—are elusive words. They can include little or much. Thinking practically, let us appraise Philippine culture by outlining the characteristic attainments of the Filipino people in contrast with other peoples.

The story of primitive man's advancement in the Philippines would be interesting to tell, but need not now concern us. It must be presumed that human progress in ages long past went through the same evolutionary processes here as elsewhere. On the coming of the Spaniards, they found a people which had a culture of their own. This had been made possible not only because of innate ability but because of the effect of Hindu influence. On the tree of the indigenous civilization the Spanish conquerors engrafted a Latin civilization. The influence of Spain was marked and was especially commendable in giving to the people the Christian religion. The Americans came and brought with them an entirely different culture which aided in the progress of the Islands especially in educational, economic, and political ways. Thus native, Hindu, Spanish, and American civilizations—in other words, Oriental and Occidental civilizations—have combined to make a localized Filipino civilization. At present it can safely be asserted that there is in the Philippines an

advanced state of national and social well-being, which is after all the criterion of culture.

[1] This chapter was read by Hon. Teodoro M. Kalaw, Director of the National Library.